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ATO Director delivers presentation on the U.S. Food Safety Regime

Report Categories:

Market Promotion/Competition

Export Promotion Programs

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

Summary: On October 23, 2012, ATO Director delivered two presentations on food safety to an audience of about 120 students and faculty from the United International College's (UIC) Food Science and Environmental Studies departments. The presentation and discussions included an introductory explanation to the U.S. regulatory system as well as a follow up comparative analysis of major differences between U.S. and China's food safety strengths and weaknesses. The presentation was designed to encourage students and faculty to draw from their knowledge in the subject and discuss how to make improvements in China's food safety system. UIC students were not shy about expressing opinions on vulnerable areas of enforcement, such as China's food manufacturing sector.

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UIC is situated in Zhuhai city (a city bordering Macau in the Guangdong Province's Pearl River Delta region) and jointly founded by Beijing Normal University and Hong Kong Baptist University. Although the UIC is located in Mainland China, all instruction is conducted in English language and upon graduation, students can earn a degree that is valid in Hong Kong.

The presentation and discussions topics focused an introductory explanation of the U.S. regulatory system such as look at the role played by U.S. regulators such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Examples of food safety incidents were brought up by the audience of students interested in seeing how these issues could have been dealt with in the United States. There were parts of the interactive presentation that were designed to elicit a comparative analysis and bring up major differences between the U.S. and China's food safety regime and strengths and weaknesses on the whole. UIC students and faculty proved to be highly knowledgeable in the subject area and made several suggestions on how to improve in China's food safety system.

UIC students also proposed the introduction of a restaurant waste program that was apparently developed in Vermont by a non-profit organization. Bright, spirited and with no shortages of innovative ideas, these students also challenged the ATO Director to discuss the type of food safety mechanisms for biotechnology for domestic and exported U.S. agricultural products. Of particular interest to the group was the role consumers and the media plays in ensuring food safety in the United States. Many comparisons were made to how China's brave bloggers are an unstoppable network of watchdogs policing civil society holding government officials to high standards.

For more on this presentation please click on the hyperlink below:

http://uic.edu.hk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1844&Itemid=1035&mosmsg=Thanks+for+your+vote%21